



# DILLSBURG BIC CHURCH

GROWING DEEP



REACHING FAR

[www.dillsburgbic.org](http://www.dillsburgbic.org)

[f /dillsburgbic](https://www.facebook.com/dillsburgbic)

The Doulos Monthly Newsletter

APRIL 2020

## Questions in the Dark

*By Naomi Smith*

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance (John 20:1).*

With these words, the apostle John begins his telling of the Easter story, and most of us know how the events unfold from there. Mary Magdalene runs to find Simon Peter and John, who quickly hurry to the tomb to see this wonder for themselves. The men peek inside and find the grave clothes, but not Jesus' body, and they leave puzzled. But Mary lingers there in the dark of early morning, sad and confused.

In the church calendar, the season of Lent marks the 40 days (plus Sundays) leading up to Easter. Lent is a time when we, like Mary Magdalene, sit in the dark and wait. We sit in the dark of unknowing, in the cold ashes of a fire gone out, in the barren wilderness. We believe that something more is coming—we feel it deep in our bones—but right now, we are hurting and disappointed and unsure. Like Mary, we wonder... *Where is Jesus? Why did he allow this death to happen? What are we to do?*

When Jesus at last comes to Mary by the entrance to his tomb, he does what Jesus often does: He asks questions. "Woman, why are you crying?" he says, then follows up with one of his favorites, "Who is it you are looking for?" (John 20:15). Even in a moment as agonizing as this one, Jesus is intentional in his interactions. Like the good teacher he is, Jesus knows that the answers to his questions are not as important as the process of journeying toward them. But Mary does not recognize Jesus. She mistakes him for the gardener, and in her desperation to find Jesus' body she pleads, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him" (John 20:15).

I have been like Mary Magdalene, desperate to do something to make a situation better. I have flailed my

words and arms around thinking that some action will help. But as I ponder the scene on this first Easter morning, I recognize that beautiful things emerge in the stillness of the darkness before the dawn. As Mary lingered there by the tomb, she encountered the risen Christ. And while I do not know what would have happened had she walked away with Simon Peter and John, I do know that her willingness to wait in that place of heart-breaking hope was richly rewarded.

*Continued on Page 2*

## December Joy for an Uncertain Spring

*By Rob Douglass*

*"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." Isaiah 7.14*

Somewhat surprisingly, my mind has returned to Christmas.

I think it was spurred on by an article I read the other day. Lane Grindle, who is the play-by-play broadcaster for the Milwaukee Brewers, suggested through Twitter recently that people should put up their Christmas lights again to give some hope and beauty in these days that are full of fear and uncertainty. Apparently, the idea is getting some attention as articles on it have appeared on both TIME's and CNN's websites.

On the one hand, I love the idea. First, I love Christmas. Second, I love Christmas lights. Third, what could it hurt? It would get us out of the house and give us something to do while we are "distancing" ourselves from one another.

On the other hand, it seems a bit silly to think that little light bulbs could change much. They can give us a moment of pleasure or a fleeting smile, but

*Continued on Page 2*

## Dillsburg Brethren in Christ Staff



**Rob Douglass**  
Senior Pastor



**Jeff Conrady**  
Associate Pastor



**Kathy Bennett**  
Administrative  
Assistant

## The Doulos Newsletter Information

\*\*\*\*\*

**Doulos Editor:** Carolyn Kimmel

**Layout:** Anne-Marie Brandt

Please send submissions for the  
May 2020 issue to:

**carolynkimmel@comcast.net**

or place them in Carolyn's church  
mailbox by **APRIL 8th**.

*Continued from Page 1—Rob Douglass*

they can't kill germs, repel fear or banish depression—at least not for long. They don't put food on the grocery store shelves or really connect us to other people.

While the lights can't change much, the One to whom the lights point changes everything.

It does not take much effort to compare how our experience with this disease parallels the effect that sin has had on humanity. Everyone has been impacted in some way, and two of the results have been that we are separated from one another and that we are too familiar with fear.

God's remedy for sin is also his word for us in this disease. He is forever "Immanuel." He has overcome the "distance" that separates. Not only has the distance been eliminated, he also wants his people to be free from fear.

This is new to us, but he has been here before. He who touched the lepers will stay with those who are now feeling socially isolated. We read that perfect love drives out all fear (1 John 4:18). Jesus is Immanuel and is himself, perfect love personified. May his presence with you cause all your fears to be afraid and flee. His name is Immanuel, Perfect Love with Us!

Maybe I will put up those lights, after all.



*Continued from Page 1—Naomi Smith*

In the Christian faith, we hold onto the paradox that death precedes life. The blazing glory of Easter morning is inextricably tied to the piercing agony of Good Friday. Those who mourn know the most tender comfort; those who sorrow know the sweetest joy. Love keeps Mary Magdalene there by the tomb, and love greets her with a single word: "Mary" (John 20:16). Jesus reveals himself to his friend by simply speaking her name, and I believe that Jesus wants to reveal himself to us in this way as well.

I do not know what grief you carry in your soul, but I pray that you will have the good courage this month to sit and wait by the empty tomb. Speak your honest questions into the dark. Hear the questions Jesus offers in return. And know that the God who meets you in your pain is the God with nail-scarred hands. He too has experienced betrayal, suffering, and death. He has been made new, and as he speaks your name; you too can be made new.



## Easter Schedule

Here's what we are planning as we look forward to our Easter celebration together.

It's possible that some or all of these activities could be cancelled due to coronavirus concerns, so stayed tuned.

Whether together or apart as we celebrate our Risen Lord, we can know with certainty that He is alive and He holds today and all our tomorrows in His very capable, loving, self-sacrificing hands. Hallelujah!

### Maundy Thursday Service

6:00 p.m. Foot Washing

6:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal

7:00 p.m. Communion

### Easter Sunday

9:00 a.m. Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Worship

## Stop Traffic

By Marj Strayer

Thank you to those who came out to the Peace Promise banquet and to those who support Peace Promise in many other ways.

We heard from one of the women who has come out of the clubs and is finding life on the outside very rewarding. She has begun a whole new life. She still has a long way to go to complete wholeness - but with the help of Peace Promise, she has hope and trust in the redemption of the Lord Jesus.

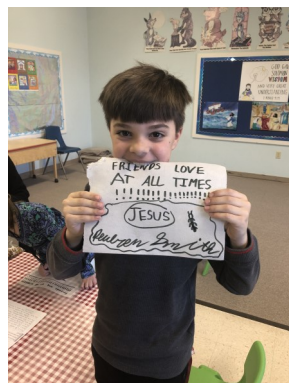
Keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming events at Dillsburg BIC related to human trafficking. We are hoping to show a movie on human trafficking here at DBIC in the spring. This will be followed by a presentation in September by Beauty After Bruises, a local Dillsburg ministry that ministers to women and children who suffer trauma from abuse and sexual exploitation.

## Kids Eat Up Scripture!

In our spring children's Sunday School class, we are learning about Solomon and what he asked God for—ask your children and hopefully they will say “wisdom”!

In her great wisdom, our cooking class teacher bj Martin found edible ink and paper on which the children could write a favorite proverb or Bible verse—and eat it!

Rowan Brubaker found out before anyone else that edible ink turned his entire mouth black, which we all found shocking and then very funny! Although no one really loved the taste of their edible supplies, we had lots of fun creating!





## IN THE PEW NEXT TO YOU . . .

### MEET SETH AND BECCA WIERWILLE

#### *Born and raised in . . . .*

**BECCA:** I was born in Sellersville, Pa, but mostly raised in Watsontown, Pa.

**SETH:** I was born and raised in Lima, Ohio.

#### *A bit about my family . . . . .*

**BECCA:** I'm the oldest of three siblings. My brother Ben lives in Key West, Fla., and my sister Abby still lives with my parents, but is off to college soon. My parents live on a farm in Watsontown, Pa.

**SETH:** I have one older sister, Kylie, who lives on my family's farm with her husband Devin and two daughters, Paisley and Kinsley. My parents live on the adjacent land in Lima, Ohio.



#### *I spend my days doing . . . . .*

**BECCA:** I teach kindergarten at Logos Academy Harrisburg, a Christ-centered school in midtown Harrisburg.

**SETH:** I currently work as an accountant for farms in Adams, Cumberland and Perry counties.

#### *How I became a Christian . . . . .*

**BECCA:** I accepted Christ at a very young age (probably 4 or 5), and though I believed in God, I don't think I understood what it meant to follow Jesus until I was a junior in high school. That year, on a last-minute trip to Honduras, I really felt God speak to me. For the first time, I released my own plans for my life and everything else I held so tightly to Him.

**SETH:** I was born and raised in a Christian home, where I accepted Christ at an early age. But I didn't truly start seeking my own personal relationship with Christ until college. I realized that my faith had to be my own and not my parents' faith, and that became my priority.

#### *A time we really saw God work in our lives was . . . . .*

**BECCA AND SETH:** Two years ago, we were living in Ohio. We both had good jobs and our living situation (renting from Seth's dad) was pretty ideal. But we both felt unsettled, like God was calling us into something new. We started looking at some other jobs in other states, and when Seth accepted a position in central Pennsylvania, we had so much immediate confirmation from God that this is what He had for us. In a time of lots of transition and potential stress, we really felt God's presence.

#### *My biggest passion is . . . . .*

**BECCA:** Growing in love and empathy.

**SETH:** Helping people, no matter the time or circumstance.



*Continued from Page 4*

*I spend my free time doing . . . . .*

**BECCA:** Writing, reading, hiking or anything outdoors

**SETH:** Hunting, fishing and hiking

*Favorite Bible verse . . . . .*

**BECCA:** Isaiah 43:1 “But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.’”

**SETH:** Matthew 28:18 “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’”

*My favorite thing about Dillsburg BIC is . . . . .*

**BECCA:** The sense of community.

**SETH:** How friendly and welcoming everyone is.

*Something that might surprise you about me is . . . . .*

**BECCA:** I hate cheese!

**SETH:** I broke my pinky in high school and haven’t been able to straighten it since.

*My favorite song is . . . . .*

**BECCA:** Right now, it’s probably “Reckless Love” by Cory Asbury

**SETH:** Anything by NEEDTOBREATHE

*A prayer request we have is . . . . .*

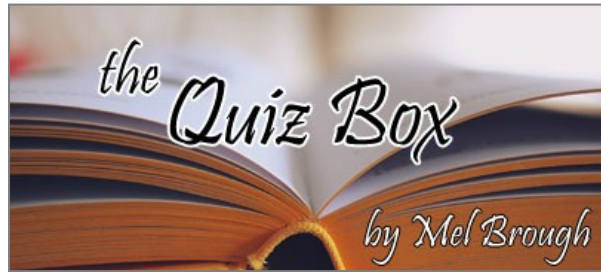
**BECCA AND SETH:** We’re looking at possibly buying a house at some point this year and would love prayers for God’s guidance and direction in the midst of these sorts of big decisions.



The church has launched a new email address which you can use for needs, issues, concerns, or suggestion related to the coronavirus outbreak: [connect@dillsburgbic.org](mailto:connect@dillsburgbic.org)

Please use this address to connect with the church leadership about any needs you may be experiencing during this time.





On Saturday, March 7, Dillsburg BIC church hosted the March practice tournament. There were six teams from five churches (Dillsburg, Fairview Ave, Harrisburg, Souderton, and two teams from Grantham).

We had seven quizzes before lunch. Dillsburg was undefeated and earned the 40 - point bonus in each quiz. A team earns the 40 - point bonus by having four quizzers get at least one correct jump answer. Congratulations to Jese Brubaker, Connor Engle, Meredith Engle and Tyler Whitesel for getting at least one correct jump answer each quiz. Thanks to everyone who came to watch quizzing.

After quizzing, the teams from Harrisburg, Fairview Avenue and Souderton joined the Dillsburg quiz team and youth group for a pizza lunch. Exciting group games (Trashketball, 4 on a Couch and Dodgeball) followed lunch. Thanks to Jeff Conrady for arranging lunch and games.

Our next planned quizzing event will be the Allegheny Open Tournament on **Saturday, April 4 at Grantham BIC church, starting at 9 a.m.** We will be quizzing on Hebrews 1-13 and 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1-5.

Please mark your calendars with these important dates.

**Saturday, May 2** – Charlie Crider Memorial Tournament at E-Town BIC – All day.  
 \* Since both Dillsburg and Grantham are planning to go Denominational Finals at General Assembly, it was decided to not have a Regional Conference Playoffs

**Friday, July 10** – Monday, July 13 – Denominational Finals at General Assembly, Salina, Kansas (the quiz team and others will be leaving on Thursday, July 9)

Verse of the month: 1 Peter 1:9 – “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, to proclaim the virtues of Him who call you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” *The Holy Bible, Berean Study Bible. Copyright ©2019 Bible Hub.*

A great way to financially support the quizzing ministry at Dillsburg is to purchase Giant gift cards. **Please see Avis Whitesel to purchase gift cards or if you have any questions.**

To be eligible to quiz, you must be between the ages of 12 and 19 sometime during the quizzing year, which is defined as starting November 1 and ending October 31. Quizzing provides an opportunity to study God’s Word, fellowship with other youth, participate on a team and experience positive competition.

If you have any questions about quizzing, please contact one of us:

Mel Brough 717-432-4864 mabrough58@gmail.com

Brent Whitesel 717-432-9048 abwhitesel@gmail.com





### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jack & Helen Leach	April 2
Nathan & Sarah Hoover	April 16
Jon & Diana Dale	April 29



Tim Horst	April 1	John Reed	April 15
Erika Pease	April 4	Tony Monko	April 17
Jason Smith	April 4	Ariela Vader	April 17
(Jay and Judy's son)		Ed Strayer	April 17
Aaron Poole	April 6	Grace Horton	April 18
Ethan Beachy	April 9	Patti Miller	April 18
Tyler Monko	April 10	Connor Engle	April 21
Garrett Sowers	April 10	Hope Gabikiny	April 22
Corie Thuma	April 10	Chris Eyster	April 23
Mary Reed	April 11	Luca Thuma	April 25
Kayce Heck	April 12	Ray Knepper	April 27
Shelby Sieber	April 12	Travis Moyer	April 30
Thomas Walsh	April 14		

If you are not able to make a Sunday morning service, you are able to send an email to [dbicmedia@gmail.com](mailto:dbicmedia@gmail.com) and they will send you a link to the YouTube Live channel to watch online. *The link changes weekly.*

*Did you know you can download and listen to past sermons on our website?*  
<http://www.dillsburgbic.org/media>



# APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Faith Finders 6:30 p.m. Thrive 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer & Praise			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 a.m. Classes 10:30 a.m. Worship	6:30 p.m. Safety & Security Team meeting 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Poole's)		Doulos Deadline	Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 p.m. Foot Washing 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Meal 7:00 p.m. Communion		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
EASTER 9:00 a.m. Breakfast 10:30 a.m. Worship		5:30 p.m. Impact Campfire 6:30 p.m. Human Trafficking Meeting (Strayers')	9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study Brunch 6:30 p.m. Faith Finders 6:30 p.m. Thrive 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer & Praise	6:30 p.m. Leadership Council	6:30 p.m. Deacon Meeting	7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 a.m. Classes 10:30 a.m. Worship			5:15 p.m. Eat 'n' Run 6:30 p.m. Faith Finders 6:30 p.m. Thrive 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer & Praise			9:00 a.m. Prayer Walking 6:00 p.m. Game Night
26	27	28	29	30		
9:00 a.m. Classes 10:30 a.m. Worship	7:00 p.m. Ministry Council		6:30 p.m. Faith Finders 6:30 p.m. Thrive 6:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer & Praise			



*These events subject to change. Stay tuned for information from DBIC on any canceled or rescheduled events.*